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Book Reviews

The Life of the Ancient Greeks. By CHARLES BURTON GULICK.
New York: D. Appleton & Co. Pp. xii + 373. \$1.40 net.

The publication of this book belongs to a movement in the teaching and the study of Greek which deserves the greatest encouragement. The elective system is now thoroughly established as a policy, not only in universities and colleges, but in high schools as well. It is evident, then, that Greek must stand or fall on its merits. It will not continue to be studied merely because it has been included in the fixed curricula of past years. Nor will Greek studies long maintain their place among the subjects elected by students of the present day, if Greek literature continues to be made the mere vehicle for conveying a knowledge of Greek forms and syntax. Other phases of Greek studies must be given more emphasis in the future than they have received in the past. Greek literature must be made the basis for a wider study of the history, art, social life, and mythology of the Greek people. These features of Greek studies are both interesting and valuable to students of the present day, and it is quite possible for teachers to treat them in connection with the reading of Greek authors, to say nothing of presenting them independently. In fact, a lively interest is thereby added to the reading of the literature. Not only is this true, but actual experience has shown that students who have, without any knowledge of the Greek language, undertaken the study of Greek history, art, mythology, or manners and customs, have been inspired with a desire to know the literature of the Greeks at first hand.

The author of *The Life of the Ancient Greeks* has planned his book admirably to accomplish these good results. He has treated the subjects briefly but clearly. He has confined himself to a definite field, and has presented the well-established facts in that field, and he has avoided the mistake which many writers on similar subjects have made, of presenting his own conjectures as demonstrated truth.

After giving a brief description of Greece, Attica, and Athens, the author treats of the dwellings of the Greeks; their childhood, school training, and marriage; their food, clothing, social entertainments, and various callings; their hospitality, religion, death and burial, etc. Each subject is fully illustrated by excellent cuts, and the value of the book is still further enhanced by a bibliography of the themes of each chapter added as a supplement. It is an excellent book both for reference and as a textbook for the study of the manners and customs of the ancient Greeks, and will be of great value to all teachers of Greek.

W. G. MANLY.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI.